

IFA Board of Directors Meeting
November 10, 2013
Indianola, IA

Present: President Al Esch, 1st VP Brad Yeager, 2nd VP Mark McNees, 3rd VP Bill Halleran, 4th VP Marv Trimble, 5th VP Al Muhlhausen, Past President Roger Bissen, Executive Director Wendy Lensing. Also present were Randy Novak, FSTB; Jeff Quigle, FM; Bob Platz, Dyersville; Bob and Ellen Hagen, Jewell; John Pederson, Lobbyist; Jack Runge, Buckeye; Jim Shutts, Belle Plaine; Nancy Muhlhausen, Maquoketa; Michelle Trimble, Garrison; Kell Esch, Epworth; Rosie Platz, Dyersville.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Al Esch.

Mark McNees made a motion to add Roxanne Dean from California Casualty to the agenda. It was seconded by Al Muhlhausen. Motion carried. President Esch added her to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

Roxanne Dean presented information to the board and meeting attendees about California Casualty Group. They are an affinity based auto and home insurance provider. The board will be discussing this further and looking into details.

President Al Esch presented the Indianola Fire Department with an IFA banner in appreciation of hosting the meeting.

Brad Yeager made a motion to approve the minutes of the last board meeting, held June 8th, 2013 in Grinnell. It was seconded by Bill Halleran. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report - Wendy Lensing:

Thank you to the Indianola Fire Department for hosting the meeting today and to everyone for attending.

We held our States Networking Meeting in Des Moines this weekend. We had to change the date from our normal timing the end of October due to conflicts with the NVFC's fall conference and National Benefits Summit this year. Our numbers were down slightly because of this but there were 20 people at the meeting yesterday from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Wisconsin and this year we were joined by a representative from South Dakota for the first time. Our meeting is always a great chance to exchange information with other states and this year was no exception.

We are beginning to have a few little glitches in the membership database that we currently use and we are starting to look at what others are using successfully. That was one subject that we discussed yesterday with those attending and we will be looking into that more.

Billing for 2014 just went out a week ago and dues are now rolling in keeping things quite busy. Please remember that dues are delinquent February 1st so be sure to get them paid as soon as possible.

This year we had a very short survey concerning workers comp included with the dues packet. It was also sent electronically to those on the email list. Please reply once per department to the survey as soon as possible so that we have the information when we are talking to our legislators this upcoming session.

Information was also included again this year with the dues for membership in the National Volunteer Fire Council. The Iowa Firefighters Association is an All-State Member which means the NVFC is offering members of our association a membership in the NVFC for only \$15 per year which is half the regular cost of membership. The NVFC has many benefits that they are able to offer their members including a \$10,000 AD&D policy. There are 118 IFA members that have joined the NVFC.

Our credit card program with ATIRAMastercard is going well. We have gained 59 new cardholders recently resulting in \$10 per account for the IFA as well as increased revenue from transaction fees and interest. This is a win-win for both members and the association. If you don't have a card yet I encourage you to sign up for one.

Again, thanks for attending today and remember to get the dues sent in right away.

Thanks!

Membership Report:

Membership in the IFA as of October 20, 2013 was 14,910 with 2,783 belonging to mutual aid. There are 41 affiliated members. Association membership is down 47 members from last year at the same time and affiliated members is up by 2.

Financial Report:

Total assets for IFA as of September 30, 2013 are \$465,375.44. Total assets for the Iowa Firemen's Foundation as of September 30, 2013 are \$33,568.85.

Motion by Roger Bissen to approve the financial report. It was seconded by Bill Halleran. Motion carried.

Officers Reports:

1st VP Brad Yeager:

The States Networking meeting yesterday was great. It's always good to get together with the other states and reaffirm that we are all on the same page. I'd like to thank Marv and Mark for their input from the benefits summit. They learned a lot and brought a lot of information back to us. It is definitely important for us to continue that.

We just started looking at database programs. We have a couple of options – one cheap and one more expensive. We need to weigh Wendy's time in the equation also.

There have been some complaints about the American Income Life company that is providing the \$2000 AD&D policy to our members. I guess we need to hear from the members whether having that benefit is worth any problems that have arisen with meetings some members have had with a few of the agents.

I went to Des Moines on Tuesday and met with Commissioner Noble for about an hour. It was an excellent meeting. We talked about the letter that we have sent to the governor and about our agenda for the upcoming year. He was extremely positive about additional training funds and an additional full time employee for the FSTB. Hopefully this week we can get another letter to the governor put together reiterating those items while they are working on the budget and then next month we have a meeting with Governor Branstad. I'm excited for this year's legislative session. As the ball gets rolling we need the membership to be onboard with us and talk to their local legislators.

We talked about dues yesterday with some of the other associations. We are sitting good right now but next year our newspaper contract comes up again and with travels and the database upgrades I just want to put it out there that a dues increase may need to be looked at. Most other states are in the \$15

- \$25 range on dues. We are an economical value and hopefully with added benefits being discussed and some of the other things we are doing it pays off for people.

I also met with Randy and had lunch with him the other day and thank you for all that you do also.

2nd VP Mark McNeese:

Thanks to the Indianola Fire Dept and Chief Seymour for allowing us to hold our meeting here today.

I enjoyed our Mid States meeting held this weekend involving our neighboring states and was pleased that South Dakota was able to send a board member this year and participate. It offers us a chance to discuss benefits associations are providing their members along with the issues each organization is facing along with the fire and EMS service in their state. It drives home the point of just how common the problems and issues we face are in many areas and really gives you some ideas on how to overcome them. It also provides an opportunity to see what more we each can do for our members.

Marv and I just returned from Texas and the NVFC National Benefit Summit. I thank the board and membership for allowing me to return again as it gives Iowa some continuity and board members a chance to continue to strengthen our contacts with members of other associations from across the country.

We do exactly the same thing at the national meeting but a little more organized. We get presentations from states and from companies and organizations that want to offer associations benefits for our members. I personally want to give our members as many benefits as possible to help them personally and to increase the desire to join or maintain their IFA membership, which then strengthens our organization.

We have always looked at each potential benefit with regards to our members privacy and the cost to them or our association. We have identified two very potential benefits I hope we can offer to our members that will be of value to them if they so choose. One is with California Casualty, which is a company Roger and I had discussions with in NY two years ago and we will hear from again today as an entire board. We have been investigating by talking with board members from states across the US and their experience with the company. I believe they are a good possible fit with our organization.

The second is a new company called Assets in Order and is an on-line document storage opportunity for getting your personal affairs and paperwork in order for your families. I am very excited about the potential of this program because I see how every one of us can use this and how it offers more than what many of us are doing on our own. I hope we enter into more discussions with the company and see if we can make this program work. If we decide to proceed our members will be getting much more information about the programs and the best part is they opportunity will be directly coming from the IFA to participate and our members will not be contacted by companies.

I am disappointed in some of the reports we are hearing about AIL and our ADD benefit we instituted last year for all of our members. We have heard complaints about aggressive agents and have addressed each one with the company. We have also now heard from neighboring states that they have had the same issues in the past. I still at this moment feel we can continue with the program and will work through the complaints. I remind everyone you don't have to do anything for the benefit and you will only be contacted by the company if you returned the card. We have heard from Nebraska members

that the company has unfortunately paid out several times in their state recently due to accidental deaths so the coverage is working, it's just that some aggressive sales agents are giving us all some heartburn.

At the national summit we also discussed many issues and two things I really want to take a deeper look into is Iowa's job protection act for volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel. I think we need to see if we can strengthen it to better protect the jobs and careers. I also am concerned about workers comp coverage for short term disability and how it covers us all. And one thing I would definitely encourage our members to do is create a job description for your firefighters detailing when exactly they are on duty and when they are released from a call, and include everything they could possibly be responding to call wise, and that extra-curricular activities such as fire prevention, open houses, parades, etc. are also part of their duties. This will give more protection for the potential fight that may occur for coverage due to injury while performing their duties. We owe it to all of us to protect ourselves from financial disaster as we provide vital services to our communities.

To close I would also remind chiefs that you should be designing or copying a tax credit form that you can give to your firefighters for the state tax credit that takes effect this year. A template is on the Iowa Fire Chiefs website for members but you can create your own easily. This will be needed for tax preparation beginning in January.

3rd VP Bill Halleran:

Thanks to the Indianola Fire Dept and Chief Brian Seymour for the hospitality and hosting today's meeting.

Yesterday's State Networking was very nice. It is great to hear all the different perspectives from other states, yet it is disheartening to hear that all the states encounter the same issues. Recruitment and retention will always be a hot topic that we are all trying to solve.

A reminder to all 99 counties. We have several counties that do not have a representative for county contacts. This is a go to person that Capture Marketing can be in contact with that will pass out pertinent information to the remainder of the county. Not a demanding position.

Reminder to contact your local legislator to attend your PR, training or even meeting events. They need to realize what we provide for our communities.

Reminder Firefighter Day on the Hill. Breakfast is Jan 29 for the legislators and March 31 is actual FF Day on the Hill.

AFG Grants are open and close Dec. 6. Randy Novak with Fire Service Training Bureau will be available to proof read your narrative section only. Use this as a resource to better your chances.

Randy Novak: One of the biggest issues with the grant program is the lack of information that is put in the financial needs statement. That is the weakest part of the narrative. If you are taxing to the maximum amount, say so. If you aren't, say why not. Are you fundraising? It's o.k. to say you are because if you are fundraising and you're never going to come up with enough money for a truck all those efforts will only get you so far and you still need federal help.

4th VP Marv Trimble:

The issue with American Income Life – I had a person come to me that had received several phone calls from a blocked number that left a message and he wasn't sure if it was legitimate. I contacted Wendy and she got in contact with our AIL company representative. The representative contacted the member

the next day and they have discussed it. It sounded like a particular agent wasn't doing things in the manner that the company wants them to.

There were 24 states represented at the National Benefits Summit. That's only half, but still a good representation from across the country. We got information from all over the place. Massachusetts said they are going to be broke in 2 years unless something changes. That's an east coast state and when you talk to people they usually think the coasts are more progressive than the middle of the country but when you look at what we're doing we are ahead of them. One of the states raised their dues from \$20 to \$30 and nobody said a word about it. That being said, talking about membership, Nebraska is roughly 8000 members and their numbers are going up each year and they are at \$20, Wisconsin is around 11,500 and their dues are \$25 and they are losing members, Kansas has 7500 members and their dues are \$10 but there is an additional \$50 fee per department, South Dakota is at \$15 and they have 5300 members. We have more members than these other states but we are kind of behind them on dues costs. We need to look at that and also look at not waiting until we are behind before we start looking at a solution. We need to look to the future to be sure we don't fall behind. There were other benefits presented as well in Texas. One was a cell phone company that if you had members of your association switch to their company then the association would get a kick back. There were others that wouldn't apply to us such as one company that bought electricity on the open market and then sold it. We just had a follow up meeting about convention. We are pretty proud of the numbers we had and the way things went. I'm trying to encourage other departments to host convention because once you get your group together and get your committees going the right direction we got done and we aren't burned out. I think our two departments are actually stronger now than they were before and just like the last time we hosted our two departments are closer now than before. We got to work together for a whole summer and got to know each other and it worked out well for us. I want to encourage any departments thinking about it to pursue it.

5th VP Al Muhlhausen:

On October 26th I had the honor of presenting Grand Mound Firefighter Dean Geise an award for 41 years of service and spoke about the current issues facing the IFA. Thanks to President Esch for accompanying me on my first presentation. I also had a chance to talk to the fire chief and he is signing up to be our county legislative liaison for that county. I saw some of the other counties in my area that don't have contacts yet and I will be working on those.

I attended that Iowa Fire Chiefs Association Conference in Story City last weekend.

The Midwest States Networking meeting in Des Moines was very interesting as a first time attendee, it seems their focus was on running their fire schools and training opportunities, where ours is focused on training funds and legislative issues, we are fortunate to have the FSTB.

Thank you to Indianola for hosting the meeting today.

Also I would like to thank the board for the advice and guidance through my first few months, because sometimes it can be a bit overwhelming.

I will be attending the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau's Instructors Conference in Ames.

Past President Roger Bissen:

Thanks to Indianola Fire Department and Chief Seymour for hosting our meeting today. Yesterday we had our States Networking Meeting and we are constantly getting good information from all of these meetings, very worthwhile.

That leads me into the Nation Benefits Summit meeting that Mark and Marv went to in Texas. I have been to a couple of those meetings also, once with Mark and once with Ellen and we do come back with a lot of things we can apply in the state of Iowa.

I also went to the Fire Chief's Association Fall Conference in Story City. We had a lot of good presentations at that meeting and I learn a lot of good information there too. I have been asked to serve on the board so now I am also serving on that board too. I will be attending different things at the capital in that capacity also.

I've been visiting with Ellen a little bit and also been visiting with a member of the LAST team in Kansas and this has about seeking medical attention for all injuries at fire scenes. They had a fatality in their state that was a result of an injury from a scene. A fire fighter got injured and did not go see a doctor right away well one thing lead to another he finally did go and seek medical attention a few days later, went through some treatments and ended up having surgery. Things didn't go well in surgery and the person died a while later due to complications, now there is some difficulty trying to get benefits for the family because of the time delay. If you seek medical attention as soon as you get injured it will stop the 24 clock which will make things easier. There was a fire fatality in Wyoming, IA the other night and I was not sure if it was a firefighter or a civilian so I was on the phone with Ellen last night to have her contact the chief from Wyoming to see if it was a fire fighter or not. We need to have a list of all the chiefs around the state given to Ellen in case of such event. I know Wendy you do have the list but there may be some times when you may not be available or may not have the list to you. The LAST team needs to make contact with that fire department within 24 of the events if a fatality should happen. I know the Fire Service Training Bureau has a list also but I feel Ellen needs to have that list too so we can get the ball rolling on this. It not going be shared with anybody and only used in the event that a fatality happened. I remember what Jack told me at the convention meeting that it is kind of nice taking the back seat on some things, Al your doing a great job so Thank You.

President Al Esch:

I want to begin by thanking the board and Wendy for their professionalism and commitment. I believe everyone benefits when we are all involved and it makes this position a lot easier.

I do not have much to add regarding yesterday's States Networking Meeting other than this; the time spent in conference and networking gives the attendees an opportunity to learn first- hand the challenges neighboring associations experience, celebrate their success stories and hear how expectations were not met.

Thanks Mark & Marv for going to College Station, TX. I think it is important to maintain our presence at these meetings by encouraging the board to attend any of the NVFC spring or fall conferences if they are already in the area on similar business.

There were a couple of quiet weeks after convention. But all that changed the week prior to CITA's fire school when we learned about the controversy surrounding the July report authored by former fire marshal, Ray Reynolds. I appreciate the professionalism of acting Fire Marshal Jeff Quigle and his presence here today. I would like to talk about the white elephant in the room and add although Ray had asked for reassignment from his position as Fire Marshal, I admire his commitment to accountability.

As mentioned in my November newsletter report, the officer reports and regular article contributors are not subjected to editorial privilege or similar review. That does not mean, submissions will not be

monitored in the future if this were to happen again. I promote the free exchange of thoughts and ideas. Not many association publications can say that.

I had the privilege of participating in a certificate presentation with VP Al M. to Dean Giese of Grand Mound FD for 41 years of service.

The fall fire schools CITA, NATA and the Tri States Emergency Responders Conference continue to provide unique training opportunities to all but are faced with lower numbers. I saw a lot of new classes and instructors at CITA again this year.

If any of the board has a county fire association meeting near their towns, please try to attend and recruit contacts to fill those vacant spots.

The IFA board is committed to providing the best benefits it can with little or no cost to the members.

We are all in the customer service business and we had a few great benefits and few smart failures.

California Casualty is here in order for us to see if their program would benefit our members.

I'm glad that a possible dues increase was mentioned. Many years ago, the foundation was laid and built by a number of past presidents and it is incumbent upon us to maintain and build a strong association by looking ahead and meeting financial challenges early. We need to start talking about the options before newsletter rates increase.

We have a meeting scheduled December 16th with the governor and I would like to limit board attendance to two or three as not to overwhelm him. John or Matt, our lobbyists are welcome to attend also.

December 7th various public safety agencies and groups will meet to discuss legislative priorities. The IFA usually attends with two board members and I invite John and Matt to go along as well. We have had some success with the group and some shortfalls as well.

Committee Reports:

NVFC – Bob Platz:

NVFC Fall Conference just took place in College Station, TX. Brian Seymour attended some meetings that Bob did not and gave Bob some notes from some of those meetings. One was the EMS section meeting. They did have an EMS person on the Executive Board but it was decided to take him off the Exec. Bd and place him on the Section Board.

FEMA is working on a program to teach people to work with more civilians with first aid when something like the bombing at the Boston Marathon happen similar to Red Cross.

There was discussion on 1099 forms vs. W-2 forms. There is a department in Iowa that got into problems with the Obamacare rules for paying department members \$1 per day just for being on the department and then they got more when there was a call. Because of that they were considered full-time employees and then with Obamacare they would have to be provided insurance coverage. You should be getting W-2 forms. A 1099 form would make you a private contractor and you would have to pay your own workmen's comp and everything else.

AFG grants are going on right now. We need to get applications for those back up. When it started in 2001 there were 12,000 applicants for AFG. Today we have 5,000. They will be starting up a basic equipment grant with a maximum of \$25,000. The guidance for this grant has not been put out yet.

Jeh Johnson is the nominee for Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security. He comes from the Pentagon.

Standards Committee – the standards on bunker gear will remain at 10 years.

They are going to send out a survey to find out how much the narrowbanding affected the radio communications. They want to get results to take to FCC.

NVFC has an international representation from Italy, Greece and Paraguay. They are thinking about going to Germany in 2015 to a conference.

The Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Reauthorization Act (S.501) extends an income tax exemption on volunteer benefits that lapsed at the end of 2010. In 2007, Congress passed legislation exempting any property tax benefit and up to \$360 per year on any other benefits that volunteers receive from being taxed as income. This reauthorization act would extend the exemption for 3 years and increase the exempt amount to \$600. Congressman Latham is one of the co-sponsors on the bill. There were 37 states represented at the fall conference.

The NVFC started a program where if a department hasn't been successful in getting a grant they can contact the office and the office will put them in contact with one of the people that have been reading grants to look things over and answer questions and give suggestions on what they are doing wrong or could do differently to be more successful.

Bob has now been appointed to the legislative committee.

Mark McNees commented to Bob that he heard a lot of complaints that it seems like they would rather award a \$1 million grant than a bunch of small ones that would actually help out more departments.

Bob said he didn't think that was true that when reading grants it just needs to be proved that the need is there. Randy Novak said that the purpose of the new "Micro-grants" for \$25,000 or less is going to be to select high priority items, be willing to only take up to \$25,000 and they think they can process those faster and get them out the door. Randy serves on the grant criteria development process. They think this will help some of those departments that have slipped through the cracks. Mark said the next challenge will be to get those that have been turned down repeatedly to try again because some of them are tired of trying. Randy said a couple of things to remember is for them to be easy to read for the grant readers and if there are a couple of high priority items needed don't put in other items with it that will knock points off and drop the whole rating of the application.

Bob reported that upcoming NVFC meeting dates and locations will be:

2014 – Spring meeting will be May 2nd – 3rd in Alexandria, VA and fall meeting will be September 17th – 19th in Lafayette, LA; 2015 – Spring meeting will be April 17th – 18th in Alexandria, VA and fall meeting will be October 21st – 23rd in Charlotte, NC; 2016 – spring meeting will be in Alexandria, VA and still discussing fall location between Charleston, SC and Las Vegas, NV; 2017 – spring meeting will be in Alexandria, VA and fall meeting will be in Kearney, NE.

Legislation – John Pederson:

The governor's budget is key to what we do. Will there be more training money in there? Will there be anything in there for a potential new facility? Is there any chance to increase the tax credit? One drawback to increasing the tax credit is that they always do a cost estimate as to what is that \$50 going to cost us and they go by the numbers of who can qualify and how many will file for it so if they put an \$800,000 price tag on it and then they get through the 1st year and see it really only cost \$500,000 or was it \$1.3 million? So they may be willing to make adjustments after this first year but that doesn't mean we can't proceed to ask for a higher amount this year.

So the governor's budget is crucial and John is so glad that we sent a letter out early and they have it in their hands. We are going to follow that up with another letter.

The state has just about \$1 billion not counting the reserve money of \$600 million. They won't use one-time money to fill thing but they may do some more tax items. The state is in great shape.

Justice Appropriations contacts are important with Worthan and Courtney. The Senate may be willing to help us with some things but the Republican controlled House sometimes if it's not in the Governor's budget they won't go along with it at all. Hopefully our meeting with the Governor and his staff will help to get these things into the budget to begin with and then it is much easier to push it through.

John will also be trying to schedule some meetings with leadership of both sides possibly in December. He doesn't believe there will be a lot of policies passed this year. They passed the education and property tax bills and a couple of other large ticket items last year. There will be some things passed in the Senate and passed in the House just for them to have some things on paper with elections coming up and half the Senate and the entire House up for election.

John believes one of the policies that may come up is some type of an income tax cut. They may also tweak some of the education reform pieces they did last year. Pensions will be brought up. The public safety meeting will be key to us to listen to the pension side of things and other things they'll be talking about.

There may be some creativity with a gas tax. He doubts that they'll pass the 10 cents we keep hearing about.

There will be more retirements coming up.

There will be 3 – 4 targeted races in the Senate on both sides. The House is yet to be determined as we have not looked at the candidates and races yet.

Property tax will be an important thing to watch in your city budgets. The property tax bill passed last year will amount to a significant amount of property tax decreases over time. The state is supposed to backfill but down the road if they quit that there could be big decreases in the money coming into cities. Jack Runge commented that in some of the very small towns there just isn't a tax base to get those backfill dollars and there are going to be some towns that are hit really hard. John said he needs to do some more research to see what the impact is actually going to be on some areas.

Al Esch said an article the other day said that Cedar Falls stands to lose over \$1 million in their public safety budget alone.

Mark McNees asked how the backfilling is set up. John said he needs to get a better understanding of it. John anticipates a shorter session with the upcoming elections.

We will continue to work with Capture Marketing and see what we are doing right, how we can improve things, working with the county contacts.

Be sure if you invite a legislator to an event with your fire department that you get pictures to send in to the paper.

John said you can boil legislative process down to 4 items:

- Do you have a membership? Yes, we have a great membership
- Do you have an agenda? Yes, we have an agenda
- Might be lacking in this area but donations to PAC – contributions to legislators
- Lastly, capitol presence – and we have that

There will be many issues that come up during the session that we will be for, against or neutral on but we will keep our focus on our main 3 and keep the message simple and unified.

Mark McNees commented that from discussions he had in Texas it seemed that no other states were doing as much with a grassroots effort as we were.

Work will continue to move forward on establishing a PAC.

Convention Committee – Mark McNees:

There have only been a couple of things brought up. We need to make it clear that those convention trailers need to be inspected and repaired by the host town before they go to the next one. That is part of the responsibility.

We did discuss with the rules committee that some wording needs to be cleaned up in some of the drill rules and so that needs to be done before Mid Year.

Fire Marshal – Jeff Quigle:

Budget

The majority of the SFM budget consists of salaries for staff, vehicles, and fuel. A big issue is we do not receive additional funding in our budget for salary increases and as personnel leave the Division or retire they are not replaced due to having to come up with additional monies to cover the shortfall each year in our budget; however, other staff are required to take on additional responsibilities created by the vacancies.

Vehicles

We have had to suspend payments to our vehicle purchasing fund due to the current budget short fall. This in turn results in driving vehicles much longer which results in higher repair costs due to high mileage vehicles. Each Special Agent is issued a pick-up truck instead of the Ford Crown Victoria's due to safety issues and the amount of equipment that is carried. Our first trucks purchased were (8) 2004 and (1) 2005 Chevrolet Silverado ½ ton Extended Cab 4 Wheel Drive Trucks and (1) 2005 Ford ¾ ton Pick-up Truck. Each of those trucks was driven to an average of 200,000 miles with the last two of the original trucks being retired this year. Currently our oldest trucks are now 3 model years old. We have started to purchase trucks with V-6 Engines. We have (3) Ford Pick-ups with the Eco Boost Engines which achieve better fuel economy and have the power of a V-8 Engine when necessary. We also have (2) Ford 1 ton trucks, (1) Ford ½ ton truck, and (4) Chevrolet ¾ ton trucks. Each truck is equipped with either an extended cab or quad cab, 4 wheel drive and an all-weather topper.

Each Fire and Building Inspector is issued a 4 door sedan. We have a mix of Chevrolets, Fords, and Dodges. Our oldest models are 2006 Chevy Impalas and Ford Taurus's. We have been turning in cars to auction with approximately 140,000 to 170,000 miles. We have also been integrating more fuel efficient 4 cylinder engines into our passenger car fleet and currently have (3) Chevrolet Cruzes, (1) Chevrolet HHR, and (1) Chevrolet Malibu that all have fuel efficient 4 cylinder engines. We will continue to explore more vehicle options that have fuel efficient 4 cylinder engines.

The Electrical Inspectors were issued 2008 Ford Ranger V-6 Engine Extended Cab Pick Up Trucks. We currently have (18) Ford Rangers that range in miles from 97,466 to 208,930 miles. We also have (1) 2013 GMC 4-Cylinder All-Wheel Drive Terrain and (1) Chevy Colorado. Future vehicles will be 4 cylinder and we are considering more of the 4 Cylinder All-Wheel Drive vehicles as our Electrical Inspectors conduct many inspections in rural Iowa.

Our fuel is budgeted at \$3.00 a gallon. With the decrease in the price at the gas pump will definitely help our vehicle operating costs as long as fuel is less than \$3.00 a gallon.

Fire Prevention Bureau

At full strength the Fire Prevention Bureau consists of (16) Fire Inspectors and (1) Supervisor. Due to reassignment of a supervisor from the SFM Division to another area of the Department we are short a supervisor and we have (2) Fire Inspector vacancies. We reassigned a current fire inspector to be an acting supervisor. One Inspector position is unfunded and the other inspector position is funded; however, the position cannot be filled due to the current state of the SFM Budget.

We are currently averaging approximately 2 to 3 years on School Fire Inspections; however, any further decrease in personnel will see the cycle between inspections increase. I do not see the inspection cycles increasing to 8 to 10 years between inspections as they were back in the late 90's and early 2000's. We are continually looking at ways to be more cost effective and efficient in how we conduct inspections.

Starting December 1, 2013 we will be implementing territories for each of the Fire Inspectors as we did in the past. For the past several months we have had some fire inspectors assigned to only state inspections and other fire inspectors assigned to health care inspections.

Arson and Explosives Bureau

The Arson and Explosives Bureau consists of (10) Special Agents and (1) Special Agent in Charge Supervisor.

Case statistics:

2009—Opened 344 Cases—69 Arson Cases

2010—Opened 317 Cases—60 Arson Cases

2011—Opened 332 Cases—63 Arson Cases

2012—Opened 411 Cases—63 Arson Cases

2013—Opened 369 Cases to Date—46 Arson Cases to date

We currently have (4) K-9's—(2) Accelerant K-9's—One stationed in Council Bluffs and the other stationed in Mt. Pleasant. We have (2) Explosive Detection K-9's—One stationed in Garner and the other stationed in Waukee that are able to respond when requested. We are issuing Chevrolet Tahoe's outfitted the same as the ISP K-9 units to our K-9 handlers rather than pick-up trucks. The Tahoe's are a law enforcement pursuit rated vehicle with SFM insignias and decals.

We are trying to limit overtime and keep the agents on a 40 hour work week. We are also encouraging them to flex Friday or the following Thursday of the work week. We are also sending (2) agents to more complex cases. In many jurisdictions SFM Agents work the entire case from the initial scene work to closing the case.

This past session, legislation was passed to go from a one year Commercial Explosive License and Individual Blaster License to 3 year licenses. The fees were maintained at \$60.00 per license. Finger

prints are now required of personnel applying for a license with all checks being done by the DCI. This was a huge task every year that was completed by the Assistant State Fire Marshal. All fees from these licenses go to the State General Fund.

State Building Code Bureau

The State Building Code Bureau is currently staffed with (8) Construction Engineers who review plans with a current average turn-around time of 45 days from when a plan is submitted to the office to completion. All plans are required to be reviewed within 60 days of receipt of the plan per the Iowa Administrative Code by the SFM Division or the plan review fees are returned. The State Building Code Commissioner position was lost over a year ago due to funding cutbacks in the SFM Budget. The interim State Fire Marshal currently serves as the State Building Code Commissioner. We will be seeking adoption of the 2012 Energy Code to meet all Federal Requirements. (1) Construction Engineer reviews plans for energy compliance. This Construction Engineer position is funded through monies from the Department of Economic Development Energy Program. (1) Construction Engineer reviews sprinkler plans for compliance with all applicable codes. (1) Construction Engineer reviews fire alarm plans for compliance with all applicable codes. (2) Construction Engineers are funded by the Department of Inspection and Appeals and review health care occupancies.

We will not be seeking the adoption of the 2012 Fire and Building Codes as the 2015 set of codes will be released to us in probably June of next year and we will be exploring the possible adoption of those codes. This is a budgetary issue for the SFM Division as the new code books are costly to absorb in lean times.

The Fire Extinguishing and Suppression System Contractor and Installer Certification is managed by (1) Clerk Specialist. The fees collected for certification and licensure are retained by the SFM Division and provide partial funding of the Construction Engineers assigned to sprinkler and fire alarm reviews.

Electrical Licensing and Inspection Bureau

The Electrical Licensing and Inspection Bureau continue to be very busy with both inspections and they are currently going through the renewal period for electrical licenses. We were approved to hire a few temporary part time personnel to assist with this large licensing project which occurs every three years. The Electrical Licensing and Inspection Bureau does not receive any general fund monies and is self-funded by both the permits and licensing fees generated by the program.

There are currently (18) State Electrical Inspectors, (1) Field Supervisor, and (1) Chief Electrical Inspector/Electrical Board Secretary. Since the inception of the program several positions have been eliminated due to funding issues. (3) Supervisors were demoted to Electrical Inspectors as a cost savings measure. (1) Electrical Board Secretary position was eliminated and those duties were added to the Chief Electrical Inspectors duties.

Al Esch asked about the funding of the FireBridge reporting system. Jeff said he would do everything in his power to keep that program going. He thinks it's the greatest thing they've ever done. They've been using asset forfeiture to pay the fee. Randy said that the fee is \$35,400 per year. Randy said there is enough funding to pay the next payment in May 2014, what they don't know is what will happen in May 2015. We need to look at how to fund that. They would actually like to purchase some additional modules for it. They would like to add an analytical package that would enable Alicia to pull more data

together that currently has to be pulled from individual reports and transferred to another program. The package they would like to purchase is \$48,000 1st year with a \$7,680 annual support fee.

FSTB – Randy Novak:

The Bureau is level funded for FY14. The Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund is also level funded at \$725,520 for FY14. Funding will continue in the Firefighter Preparedness Fund (income Tax Check-Off) and the Paul Ryan Memorial Fund (fee on vehicle FF tags).

The Bureau has the following federal grants:

- FSTB received our National Fire Academy “State Training Support Grant” for \$24,000 for federal FY 13 (October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013). This will be closed out in October, 2013. Federal FY 2014 NFA “State Training Support Grant” for \$22,000 has been submitted.
- FSTB received \$250,000 for a Mobile Fire Investigation Training Lab in the 2011 AFG/FP&S Grant program. SFM (through the IFA) received \$245,000 for the Statewide Smoke Detector Project in the 2011 AFG/FP&S Grant program. Both of these grants have been closed.
- Applying for \$300,000 AFG for a new burn trailer

Major Accomplishments over the past year:

- New Firefighter I & II have been handed off to our field instructors. These new courses will be available in a traditional delivery, and now in a “blended” delivery (classroom portion on-line, practical skills face-to-face).
- Incident Safety Officer (5-6-hours) course, developed by NVFC.
- The Bureau is now working with the State Advocates for the Everyone Goes Home program to promote the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives, and to provide (at no cost) CTBS and LACK.

Certification Program:

- We will be setting up the use of Pearson VUE “testing centers” for written certification testing (as an option for our students), starting in December 2013.

Major Events: (check our website: www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/fstb)

- FSTB Programs (2013):
 - Instructors Conference, November 15-16 at Ames
 - NVFC Wildland Urban Interface T-t-T, TBA at FSTB
 - Announcement for various open enrollment classes will be mailed to Iowa fire departments throughout the year.
- FSTB Programs (2014)
 - Annual State Fire School, February 14-16 at Ames
 - Fire/Arson Investigators School, March 17-28 at FSTB
 - Volunteer Fire Chiefs Workshop, March 29 at Ames
 - Training Officers Workshop, April 26 at Ames
 - Live Fire Skills, May 3 & October 11 at FSTB
 - Hazardous Materials Symposium, October 23-24 at Ames
 - Fire Service Instructors Conference, November 14-15 at Ames
- National Fire Academy (NFA) Courses:
 - We have selected the Federal FY 2014 direct and regional deliveries from the NFA.

NFIRS: see the State Fire Marshal's website (at www.dps.state.ia.us/fm) for updated information. The Bureau is now managing the Iowa NFIRS.

Check our website for new information: www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/fstb . You can now sign up for an automatic e-mail notification when something has been added.

Some one-time High Priority items that the FSTB would like to see funded if possible in budget would be a new burn trailer at a cost of \$300,000 - \$350,000; a mobile drill tower at a cost of about \$225,000; mobile driving simulator \$250,000.

Randy is representing the state training directors at an NVFC meeting in December serving on the Health and Safety working group.

The AFG grant application period closes December 6th, 2013.

Unfinished Business:

Roger Bissen – FF Plates – everything should be on DOT website by December for continuing to keep their original plate number

New Business:

None

Good of the Association:

Jack Runge – the memorial committee is working on replacing halogen lights with LEDs at memorial

Al Esch – this coming year will be the 20th Anniversary of the memorial so there have been discussions started on what direction the ceremony should take.

Adjourn 1:25 p.m.